

Message Text

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11
ACTION ABF-01

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R 011040Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932
INFO AMCONGEN FRANKFURT

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FRANKFURT ALSO FOR GAO EDER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO, OVIP, ETRD, TECH, CZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL STAATS

REF: PRAGUE 2387

1. DURING HIS AUG 25-29 PRIVATE VISIT TO PRAGUE, U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ELMER B. STAATS MADE TWO CALLS ON CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS AT THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION. HE CALLED ON ING. JAN KAZIMOUR, CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (FSO) ON AUG 26, AND DR. ANTONIN MRAZIK, DEPUTY FEDERAL MINISTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENTS, ON AUG 27. E/C COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED MR. STAATS TO BOTH MEETINGS. AMB AND MRS. BYRNE ALSO INVITED MR. AND MRS. STAATS TO THE RESIDENCE AUGUST 28.

2. BOTH CALLS WERE CORDIAL AND INFORMATIVE. MR. STAATS PRESENTED U.S. BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS AND PUBLISHED MATERIAL TO THE OFFICIALS. HE EXPLAINED FUNCTIONS OF GAO AND, TO MRAZIK, OF THE U.S. TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL AS WELL. IN TURN, KAZIMOUR AND MRAZIK DISCUSSED THEIR OWN OPERATIONS. MR. STAATS AGREED TO SEND KAZIMOUR THE MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS PUBLISHED BY THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND MRAZIK CURRENT INFORMATION ON PERCENTAGE OF U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET AND GNP FOR
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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. ONLY NOTE OF DISCORD WAS MRAZIK'S POINTED MENTION OF TWO PROBLEMS INVOLVING U.S.: 1) LACK OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS (I.E. FAMILIAR RECITATION OF GOLD/CLAIMS ISSUE, ABSENCE OF MFN, LACK OF EXIMBANK FINANCING, ETC.); AND 2) SLOW PACE (SINCE 1973) OF NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, WHICH MRAZIK BLAMED ON USG.

4. COMMENT: MR. STAATS' VISIT WAS MOST WELCOME TO EMBASSY AS IT GAVE US OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE GOC OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE NORMALLY ARE NOT IN CONTACT. MRAZIK'S TWIN COMPLAINTS WERE OBVIOUSLY MADE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AND IN NO WAY MARRED AN OTHERWISE FRIENDLY AND USEFUL EXCHANGE.
BYRNE

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